

Response Dated: 08/25/2005
Reply to Office Action of 04/06/2005

Application No. 09 966,042

REMARKS

Claims 1-24, 27-29, and 33-44 are pending with the response to this Office Action. The Applicants are canceling claims 25, 26, and 30-32.

The Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-24, 27-29, and 33-44. The Applicants also acknowledge the withdrawal of the double patenting rejection of claims 1-44 over claims 1-54 of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,177.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 25-26 and 30-32 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nykanen (U.S. Patent No. 6,362,841) and Pivowar (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,236) and Boehne (U.S. Patent No. 6,434,500).

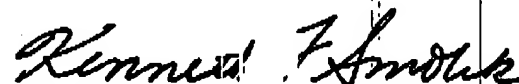
The Applicants are canceling claims 25-26 and 30-32 without prejudice.

CONCLUSIONS

The Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a conversation with Applicant's representative would be useful in the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to call Applicant's representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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